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## **COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

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### ***VETERANS HEALTH LEGISLATION OF THE 108<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS***

- Eliminated pharmacy co-payments for former prisoners of war.
- Established centers for research, education and clinical activities that specialize in treating complex multi-trauma associated with combat injuries.
- Extended and codified VA's authority to recover overpayments made for fee and contract health care services for veterans.
- Provided the Secretary with additional authority to transfer unneeded VA real property and retain the proceeds from the transfer.
- Authorized former prisoners of war to receive outpatient dental care from VA, irrespective of the number of days detained in captivity.
- Extended the mandate to provide medically necessary, institutional nursing care services to severely service-connected disabled veterans through December 31, 2008.
- Authorized VA to appoint chiropractors as clinical practitioners in the Veterans Health Administration under title 38, United States Code, and set various conditions and requirements associated with these appointments.
- Authorized VA to provide veterans who participated in tests conducted by the Department of Defense (DOD) Desert Test Center from 1962 through 1973 higher priority for hospital care, medical services and nursing home care without requirement for proof of service-connection through December 31, 2005
- Established an Office of Research Oversight within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to monitor, review and investigate matters of medical research compliance and assurance in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), including matters relating to the protection and safety of human subjects and VA employees participating in VA medical research programs.